

The Friends of the Boston City Archives

In Collaboration with
The Bostonian Society
Presents

Busing Recollections - Archival Collections

**Historical Perspectives and Documentary Sources
of the Desegregation Era**

Old State House May 18, 2004, 6:30pm

2004 marks the 30th anniversary of Federal Court Order to desegregate Boston Public Schools. Judge W. Arthur Garrity's June 1974 decision in the *Morgan v. Hennigan* case profoundly affected administration and policy of the schools. Events that led to the case and followed in its wake raised painful issues of race and class. The turbulence of the early busing era continues to maintain a place in the community's collective memory. Historical interpretations that vary or conflict according to the experience or perspective of the observer are part of the era's legacy. However, serious historical study, based on primary sources, can lead to a more impartial and enlightened understanding of forces and events that had so deep an impact on the city's people and schools.

The City Clerk's Archives and Records Division (the City of Boston Archives) is currently organizing and cataloging Boston School Department records that document implementation of the desegregation orders.* Other archival institutions in the Boston area - the State Archives, UMass Archives (Healey Library), Northeastern University Archives, the Moakley Archives at Suffolk University, Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College, the Burns Library at Boston College, the WGBH Archives to name a few - also preserve archival collections of many organizations and individuals with pivotal roles in the busing/desegregation era. Working in collaboration, the City's archivists and their professional colleagues seek to make these records accessible to the public and to scholars, so that the documentation is available to research this profound and controversial time in Boston history.

To promote greater understanding of this evocative historical episode, the Friends of the City of Boston Archives will stage ***Busing Recollections and Archival Collections: Historical Perspectives and Documentary Sources of the Desegregation Era***, a symposium to be held May 18, 2004, 6:30pm. Speakers will include **William M. Bulger, Robert A. Dentler, David I. Finnegan and Charles V. Willie**. **Mary Ellen Smith**, founder and Executive Director of the City Wide Education Coalition (CWECC) in the 1970s, will moderate. In sharing their reflections on the Boston schools desegregation era, speakers will be asked what they would expect newly available archival collections to reveal, and what specific aspects of the era deserve the special attention of researchers.

As seating is limited, please RSVP at 617-720-1713 x26 or email at education@bostonhistory.org.

* The City Archives Desegregation-era Records Project has been made possible by a grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). For more information on this project call John McColgan at 617-364-8679 or log on to <http://www.cityofboston.gov/archivesandrecords/desegregation/>

Busing Recollections - Archival Collections

**Historical Perspectives and Documentary Sources
of the**

Desegregation Era

Old State House May 18, 2004, 6:30pm

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mary Ellen Smith (*Moderator*)

Teacher, consultant, social and educational activist and administrator; founder and Executive Director of City Wide Education Coalition (CWEC), 1972-1979; State Board of Education member, 1983 to 1988 and chair, 1985-1986.

William M. Bulger

President (Retired), University of Massachusetts; State Representative from South Boston, 1961-1970; State Senator, First Suffolk District, 1970-1996; President, Massachusetts Senate 1978-1996.

Robert A. Dentler

Educational Researcher and Teacher; Professor Emeritus University of Massachusetts, Boston, where he was Professor of Sociology, 1983-1992; former Dean of the School of Education, Boston University; Chief Educational Advisor to Judge W. Arthur Garrity, 1975 to 1994.

David I. Finnegan

Managing Partner at Finnegan, Underwood, Ryan & Tierney, Attorneys; elected to School Committee, 1975; School Committee member, 1976-80 (President 1978-80); mayoral candidate 1979 and 1983; author of "School Desegregation in Boston and Denver: a Contrast in Public Policy", Harvard Extension School ALM thesis, 1999.

Charles V. Willie

Sociologist and Professor of Education Emeritus at Harvard Graduate School of Education; consultant, expert witness and court-appointed master in major school desegregation cases in cities across the country; one of four Masters appointed by Judge Garrity in early 1975 to draft Boston Public Schools Phase II desegregation plan; co-author, with Michael Alves, of "Controlled Choice" assignment plan adopted by Mayor and School Committee in 1989.